

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks Department



**DATE:** May 29, 2014

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** June 5, 2014

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Sam Herzberg, Senior Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Disc Golf in San Mateo County Parks

**RECOMMENDATION**

Review Disc Golf proposal for possible inclusion in Parks FYs 2015-2107 Budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the May 5, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, David Williams, Peninsula Disc Golf Club, under general public comment, requested that the Commission consider implementing disc golf within the parks system. The Commission directed staff at that meeting to investigate disc golf as a potential recreational feature for County parks. Staff reported back to the Commission at its April 1, 2010 meeting that staff had reviewed and proposed to begin a series of public meetings to assess public support for establishing a Disc Golf Course in Junipero Serra Park. A public meeting in San Bruno at which a prepared Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project was considered precipitated opposition from adjacent residential neighbors for the proposed project. Concerns expressed related to whether the 1981 Master Plan had anticipated this new use, lack of community engagement prior to environmental review, soil compaction and erosion from new trails, impacts to vegetation and wildlife, and discs landing in residential neighborhoods and individuals trespassing to recover discs. The project was put on hold due to lack of funding and impact on staff resources for additional public outreach, design plans, specifications and cost estimates, biological and CEQA review.

The Half Moon Bay Disc Golf Club expressed interest in developing an 18-hole course on 22 acres of the 34-acre Mirada Surf East property. Site constraints include a riparian area and wetland adjacent to Highway 1, potential for impacts to wildlife, potential use conflicts with pedestrians and dog walkers currently using the area, resolution of any easement issues with POST and Granada Sanitary District on the property, and determination of the need for additional amenities such as a parking lot, bathroom, and

fee collection mechanism. There is no Master Plan for this property. There are no dedicated funds for public outreach, to prepare design plans and specifications, and no cost estimates. Funding would also be needed for biological review and CEQA review, and to secure a Coastal Development Permit from the County Planning Department.

At the February 6 and April 3, 2014 Parks Commission meetings, Michael Infusino, Peninsula Disc Golf Club, requested the Commission reconsider proposals for disc golf courses on County park lands. The Commission requested staff consider some proposal for disc golf course to bring back for the Commission's review.

**DISCUSSION:**

Disc golf is growing in popularity across the country and in the Bay Area. There are currently no disc golf courses in San Mateo County. As this proposed use is considered a new facility and use in County Parks, a needs assessment, public outreach, design planning, and environmental review would be required for its implementation. Staff does not have other suggestions for potential disc golf course sites in County Parks. It may be that City Parks may have more opportunities for this new use in the County.

Disc golf courses were not proposed or evaluated in County Park master plans to date. Disc golf was not called out as a specific recreational use in the 2007 Midcoast Park Action Plan. On the midcoast, the Granada School playfield was upgraded, but would be too small for a disc golf course. The Farralones View School playfield is much larger, but has not been upgraded because the Cabrillo School District is unable to commit to maintaining the field.

Staff requests the Commission consider whether planning for disc golf should be included in FYs 2015-2017 budgets and recommends that disc golf be considered in a future Master Plan for Quarry Park and Mirada Surf.